



Durable Solutions Technical Working Group (DSTWG) – Summary of Meeting #45 on 13 November 2024

Meeting Chair: IOM

Co-chairs: UNDP

Participants: IOM, OCHA, ICRC, UNHCR, UNICEF, DRC, BHFF, REACH, WFP, RCO DS Advisor, IMPACT, Secours Islamique, Partners Relied and Development.

Overview and Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions
 2. Action Points from the October Meeting
 3. DSTWG Update
 - DS Update
 - Subgroups Update
 - ABC update – ToR Amendment
 4. Discussion :
 - Hasansham Interagency Mission Report
 - Transition Brief – Findings from the Cross Cutting Needs Assessment - IMPACT
 5. AOB
- **September Meeting #43 Action Points:**
 - M&A Subgroup to present on ToR and to share ActivityInfo guidelines (Pending)
 - UNHCR to double check IDP inclusion details in the census (Completed)
 - DSTWG to coordinate with RCO for information on intentions survey conducted by MoMD (Completed)

DS Update

- **DSTWG update:**
 - Bring Hope Humanitarian Foundation (BHFF) was nominated as the new NGO co-chair following a process led by DRC among the NGOs. The details of BHFF were shared with the meeting invite for review. The nomination was put forward for endorsement.
 - Upcoming DS trainings are planned to strengthen partner understanding of DS programming in Dohuk, Kirkuk, Salah ah Din (Dec, 3rd) and Ninewa (TBD).

Decision: DSTWG has endorsed the election of BHFF as the replacement of NRC as a DSTWG NGO co-chair.

- **Resident Coordinator Office updates:**

1. **Sinjar ABC:**
 - a. The Ba'aj-Sinjar ABC voted in favor of formalizing the joint co-Chair arrangement with the Government, as a way to recognize the benefits of Government involvement in strengthening the ABC's work and facilitating future transition. The practice of Sinjar ABC being co-Chaired by IOM and the Deputy Governor of Ninewa has been formalized in the revised ToR.
 - b. Memberships will now include Government representatives, alongside UN and NGO members. Local Authorities, including Mayors and Directorate heads, expressed interest as well in joining during a recent high-level Delegation visit to Sinjar. The expansion was approved by the members.
 - c. A local NGO will be designated as the support focal point for Sinjar ABC.



Decision: The DSTWG members endorsed the changes to the ABC ToR.

- **Subgroup updates:**

- 2. **HLP Subgroup:**

- a. Progress was made in collecting Project data from partners, while some inputs are still pending ; the Dashboard production was initiated.
 - b. The next meeting will aim to compile lessons learned from all the partners for updating the Guidance Note.
 - c. Initial discussions were introduced on establishing a referral mechanism across the country.
 - d. The new HLP Guidelines related to housing are under development, existing ones are accessible on the DS website.

- 3. **M&A Subgroup:**

- a. In October, the Subgroup co-Chairs reviewed the Objectives of the ActivityInfo Guideline and its alignment with M&E aims, and held a meeting in November to review Indicators and units of measurement.
 - b. The outcomes are that the current Guideline collects data but does not measure progress toward Durable Solutions, so there is a need for historical and comparative data (e.g. pre-conflict or host community data). A monthly meeting will be established on the 2nd Thursday of each month.
 - c. The ActivityInfo platform cannot be used due to OCHA's lack of Information Management (IM) capacity and high costs. RCO and IOM to assist in identifying alternative platforms (MS Forms?)
 - d. The Subgroup will invite new members with expertise in data analysis and M&E to express interest in joining the group.

Action Points:

- RCO to share the endorsed ABC ToR with Sinjar ABC & DSTWG to present it to the DSTF for final approval.
- HLP Subgroup to collect the remaining partner inputs for the Dashboard.
- M&A Subgroup to finalize the Indicators for monitoring progress, schedule the monthly meetings and engage partners for membership expansion.
- RCO and IOM to identify possible platforms as alternative to ActivityInfo (confirm MS Forms viability and IM capacity requirements)

Hasansham Interagency Mission Report

- The draft Report was shared with the DSTWG members, and comments are requested by the end of next week for finalization and translation. The Report will also be shared with authorities post-finalization.
- The Hasansham village is the largest among 13 villages in the disputed territory, with around 1,200 houses pre-conflict, and in August 266 families had returned.
- Sectoral needs:
 - On water, the current reliance is based on water trucking, but authorities are planning to reestablish the water network within 6 months. The existing water treatment plant serves nearby camps but not the village.



- On education, three schools exist with 2 partially damaged (requiring light rehabilitation) and one secondary school completely destroyed. Due to oversubscription in Erbil schools, many children of the village are out of school and authorities lack a clear plan for reopening the schools.
- One health, an existing clinic structure remains intact but planned for demolition and reconstruction as a larger facility by Ninewa authorities. There is a current lack of health services, with families relying on Hamdaniya, Erbil or camp services.
- On housing, 80% of houses are partially damaged, and 20% completely destroyed. Few families are reported receiving compensation.
- Agencies are encouraged to assist with identified gaps, and advocacy with authorities.

Discussion

IOM is assessing the needs in Hasansham and nearby villages for 2025 Activities (housing, infrastructure, livelihoods) and will coordinate with authorities to identify budgetary allocations before committing resources. Decision on specific Activities expected by November 2024.

UNHCR confirmed ongoing education in EMCs but highlighted concerns over declining teacher availability and service quality.

UNICEF explained the challenges linked with teacher migration from camps to other areas, creating gaps in staffing. As a stopgap measure, partner Organizations are hiring volunteers, but quality remains suboptimal. The Directorate of Education explained that the schools in Hasansham are not included in Ninewa Government's 2024 rehabilitation plan, and their inclusion in the 2025 one remains uncertain.

Action Points:

- DSTWG to compile the comments on the Hasansham draft Report before sharing with local authorities.
- IOM to liaise with authorities and update the DSTWG on education rehabilitation plans.
- Agencies to inform the DSTWG co-Chairs of potential interventions or advocacy capacity.
 - Transition Brief – Findings from the Cross Cutting Needs Assessment - IMPACT

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- The Transition Brief compares the findings from the 2023 Cross-Cutting Needs Assessment (CCNA) with the 2022 Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment (MCNA X), and aims to inform the transition from humanitarian to development efforts in Iraq, focusing on multi-sectoral needs and Durable Solutions.
- The data were collected between July and November 2023 and gathered 9,977 surveys covering approximately 51,000 individuals (in-camp IDPs: 2,241 surveys ; out-of-camp IDPs: 4,578 surveys ; returnees: 3,158 surveys) across 54 Districts in 13 Governorates.
- The key findings were:
 - On displacement intentions, 95% of in-camp, out-of-camp and returnee households intend to remain in their current location, with barriers to return including housing destruction, lack of livelihoods and security concerns.



- On livelihoods and services in areas of origin, 35% of households reported no available services, and 37% reported no job opportunities, therefore livelihoods could act as a pull factor for returns.
- On food security, the national food consumption scores were positive but rural areas such as Al Rutba reported lower scores due to market access barriers.
- On employment, Salah ah Din reported the highest employment barriers, with increased competition cited as a key challenge.
- On healthcare, a widespread availability of services (emergency, pediatric, maternity) was reported, but barriers include high costs, distance and resource shortages.
- On education, 85% of school-aged children were enrolled in formal education, with barriers including affordability and registration challenges. Female household members showed higher illiteracy rates (64% of 'no degree/cannot read').
- On shelter and housing, 73% of in-camp households reported shelter issues, indicating worse housing conditions than returnees, and property disputes affected 8% of households, with the highest rates in Sulaymaniyah.
- On freedom of movement and eviction risks, 7% of households experienced movement restrictions and a fear of eviction was reported by 7% of out-of-camp and 3% of returnee households.

Discussion

A significant reduction in IDPs since 2017 was noted, but Durable Solutions require addressing gaps in livelihoods, housing and service delivery. Existing National Social Protection schemes support IDPs but require bureaucratic improvements and expansion. Iraq's middle-income status may deter development Donors, and reduced humanitarian funding necessitates Government capacity-building to replace humanitarian actors. Finally, a continued monitoring of vulnerable populations is critical for a successful humanitarian-to-development transition.

Action Points:

- DSTWG to send an invitation for a brainstorming session to define the priorities of support to IDPs.

Summary of Decisions:

- Endorsement of BHHF as new DSTWG co-chair.
- Endorsement of amendments to the ABC ToRs.

AOB

- The next meeting will be **on 11 December 2024** as per the standing calendar invite.